

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4814
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USICA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CSCE, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: MARIYA SLEPAK'S SENTENCE SUSPENDED

1. IN A SURPRISE MOVE, FRUNZE DISTRICT PEOPLE'S COURT JULY 26 CONVICTED MARIYA SLEPAK OF MALICIOUS HOOLIGANISM, SENTENCED HER TO THREE YEARS EXILE, BUT THEN PROMPTLY SUSPENDED SENTENCE. SINCE HER HUSBAND VLADIMIR SLEPAK HAS ALREADY BEEN SENTENCED BY SAME COURT TO FIVE YEARS EXILE, HOWEVER, MRS. SLEPAK'S SUSPENDED SENTENCE SIMPLY AMOUNTS TO PERMISSION FOR

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HER TO JOIN HER HUSBAND IN EXILE, REPORTEDLY NEAR URALS TOWN OF CHEYABINSK.

2. TRIAL GOT UNDERWAY PROMPTLY AROUND 10:00 A.M. MRS. SLEPAK, HER BROTHER ZINOVY RASHKOVSKIY AND HIS WIFE LILA ENTERED FRUNZE DISTRICT PEOPLE'S COURT ON #7 BUTYRSKIY VAL FROM SIDEWALK AFTER TAKING LEAVE

OF SOME HALF DOZEN SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY'S MOTHER IDA MILGROM AND HIS BROTHER LEONID. ABC AND CBS TV CORRESPONDENTS WERE PRESENT AND FILMED SCENE. SUPPORTERS OF MRS. SLEPAK LATER GEW TO AROUND FOUR DOZEN REFUSENIKS AND DISSIDENTS.

3. AROUND NOON, PROFESSOR LERNER, LONG-TIME REFUSENIK, READ STATEMENT WHICH HE SAID MRS. SLEPAK INTENDED TO ENTER INTO THE COURT RECORD. INFORMALLY TRANSLATED, IT READS:

"TO THE FRUNZE DISTRICT PEOPLE'S COURT FROM MARIYA SLEPAK

TODAY YOU ARE INTENDING TO TRY ME ON THE CHARGE OF MALICIOUS HOOLIGANISM, WHICH YOU SAY WAS PERPETRATED BY ME AND MY HUSBAND. I TELL YOU I HAVE NEVER DONE ANYTHING ILLEGAL, NOR HAS MY HUSBAND.

IN 1970, OUR FAMILY -- I, MY HUSBAND VLADIMIR AND OUR TWO CHILDREN -- TRIED LEGALLY TO OBTAIN AN EXIT VISA TO GO AND LIVE WITH OUR RELATIVES IN ISRAEL. WE WERE REFUSED. SINCE THEN WE HAVE APPLIED MANY TIMES TO DIFFERENT OFFICIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR PERMISSION TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL, THE COUNTRY IN WHICH MY MOTHER, SISTER AND ONE SON LIVE.

EARLY ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 1ST, A GROUP OF UNKNOWN PERSONS, WHO HAD BEEN AT THE ENTRANCE TO OUR BUILDING

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SINCE MIDNIGHT, BLOCKADED THE ENTRANCE. WE HAD NO WAY OF LEAVING OUR FLAT. MY HUSBAND AND I WERE SO DEPRESSED BY THE PERSECUTION THAT WE WROTE "LET US GO TO OUR SON IN ISRAEL" ON A BANNER AND DISPLAYED IT FROM OUR FLAT'S BALCONY.

I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE FATE OF OUR FAMILY HAS BEEN DECIDED IN ADVANCE AND THAT IN THIS COURT YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SENTENCE US. THIS WILL MARK THE END OF THE EIGHT YEARS WE HAVE BEEN SUFFERING FROM PERSECUTION AND THE BEGINNING OF NEW SUFFERING.

TAKING ALL OF THIS INTO ACCOUNT, I REFUSE TO TAKE PART IN THIS TRIAL AND ASK YOU TO ADD THIS STATEMENT TO THE FILE OF MY CASE."

4. TRIAL ENDED AROUND 3:15 WITH NO APPARENT NOONDAY BREAK. SIDEWALK SCENE WAS PEACEFUL THROUGHOUT DAY WITH ABOUT SIX MILITIAMEN, SIX DRUZHINNIKI CORDONING OFF ACCESS TO COURT BUILDING ABOUT 10 METERS FROM ENTRANCE. CLOSE TO A DOZEN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES MILLED ABOUT WITH MRS. SLEPAK'S SUPPORTERS. MRS. SAKHAROV ARRIVED LATER IN THE MORNING WITHOUT HER HUSBAND, WHO, SHE EXPLAINED, WAS HOME SICK.

5. EMBOFF WAS NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER COURT
BUILDING ALTHOUGH MILITIAMAN SEVERAL TIMES TOLD
HIM THAT TRIAL WAS OPEN. MILITIAMAN AVOIDED GIVING
DIRECT ANSWER TO WHY EMBOFF COULD NOT GO IN,
RECOMMENDING INSTEAD THAT EMBOFF GO HOME. BRITISH
EMBOFF WAS TOLD FIRST THAT THERE WAS NO TRIAL, AND
THEN THAT THERE WERE NO EMPTY SEATS. NO OTHER
DIPLOMATS WERE PRESENT. TOON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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